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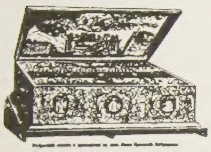
The Orthodox Herald

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A SASH



We noticed that on the church calendar for August 31/Sept. 13 there was a listing for "The Sash of the Theotokos." Our curiosity was aroused. Upon checking several books, we found this listed as "The Belt of the Mother of God." "The Girdle of the Holy Mother of God" and "The Deposition of the Cincture of the Mother of God." For clarity, we decided that we would use the word "sash."

Why is this piece of clothing of the Mother of God so important that it is given a day on which we should remember it? At her Dormition, the Mother of God left all her clothing to believers. As the years went by they were passed on to other believers in Jerusalem. The holders of these robes treasured them. Emperor Arkady got custody of her sash and took it to Constantinople. It was then taken to a town in Capadocia, and during the time of Emperor Justinian, it was again returned to Constantinople. Here it was placed in a sealed casket (pictured above), which was kept in the Mother of God Church at Blacherne.

It was sealed until Emperor Leo's wife Zoe was taken sick of soul. She had a vision that the sash should be placed upon her. With the Patriarch's permission, this was done and she recovered immediately. This happened on August 31/Sept. 13.

The sash was divided. One part can be found in Zugdid, in the country of Georgia. It was taken there by the daughter of Emperor Romanus, who was healed while praying near the sash. She took it with her when she was married to the King Abuchaz of Georgia. By order of Czar Alexander I, a special church was built to keep this wonderworking sash.

Another part can be found in Vatopedia Monastery on Mt. Athos, where it is kept in a priceless silver casket in the cathedral church, part in Western Monastery in Trier in SW Germany; and a particle in Holy Trinity Monastery in Jordanville, NY.

I cannot speak for years ahead,
nor yet for months or days,
but I have "now" in which to live
and redirect my ways.

LAST HOLY DAY

The last major holy day of the church year is the Beheading of St. John the Baptizer of Christ. This is a Scriptural holy day and we should read about it in Mark 66 6:14-30; Matt 14:1-12; and Luke 9:7-9.

We find it on the calendar on August 29/September 11. St. John was the last of the Old Testament prophets and the first of the New Testament prophets.

St. John died a martyr because he practiced what he preached. His beheading followed the marriage of Herod Antipas to the former wife of his brother, Philip. The Pharisees didn't dare to condemn the ruler, but St. John went to the royal palace and condemned the ruler's incestuous relationship with Herodias. On Herod's birthdate the opportunity was presented to Herodias to vent her vengeance upon John. At the entertainment that followed the dinner, Salome, Herodias and Philip's daughter danced, and her dance so enchanted Herod that he offered her anything up to a half of his kingdom. Her mother told her to ask for the head of St. John. Herod was reluctant, but he honored her request. St. John's head was presented to her on a platter. Herodias had exacted her revenge.

It is traditional among our people to forego eating from a flat plate or to eat anything that is in the form of a head like cabbage.They follow the church's teaching and observe a strict fast day.

There is a roadside herb which honors the name of St. John's It is called St. John's wort. It is a perennial which grows between 1 and 3 feet tall and has bright sun-like flowers and unusual black-spotted leaves. It is not known why it got its name, but some say it is because it flowers about the time of the birthday of St. John in June and if the yellow flower is picked

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DORMITION RECALLS DEVOTION

We had an aunt who refused to call the Mother of God by any other name but Bohorodica. Not for her Theotokos, Virgin Mary, or St. Mary.

The title Bohorodica is very old and reveals the faith of the early church, in the unity of person in Christ, and the dignity of His Mother. However, the unity of divine person in Christ was attacked by the followers of Nestorius. The Council of Ephesus (431) declared that Mary is truly the Mother of God. Ever since then the Orthodox Church has given her the title "Mother of God" or Bohororoditsa. So our aunt found solace and strength from the Bohoroditsa during her life.

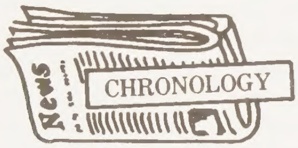
In days gone by, the Bohorodica was a prominent part of every Orthodox household. Her ikons could be found in the Eastern corner of the bedroom and in the main room, where it could first be seen upon entering the home. A vigil light burned before it. Prayers were said before the ikon everyday and at special times as when newly-weds knelt to ask her blessing on their new love, mothers-to-be while they were waiting to give birth, after the birth of a child they were brought to receive blessing of the Holy One, and in times of stress and troubles people could be found on their knees before the ikon.

Children were taught their prayers before the ikon. Parents blessed their young with the ikon when they left for school, during illness, before examinations, and upon giving their blessing to their children to be married. No member of the family started on a trip before kneeling in prayer. Family councils always took place before the ikon and when death came to the home, it was the Bohoroditza who heard the last whispered prayer.

One of the most popular prayers to the Bohoroditza consists of the words of the angel at the Annunciation: "Bohoroditza Dive, radujsja, Blahodatnaja Marije, Hospodstoboju. Blahoslovenna ty v zenach

(Continued on Page 21, Col. 1)

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AUGUST 1997

ON ACTIVE MILITARY DUTY are 27 Orthodox priests. There are 8 in the Air Force, 7 in the Army, 12 in the Navy. For locations where they are stationed, contact: Fr. Gregory Havrilak, Box 675, Syosset, NY 11791-0675 or call 516-922-0550.

ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN PRISON MINISTRY, PO Box 1949, Hollywood, CA 90078-1949 sends ikon cards and Orthodox literature to those in prison who request them. Fr. Duane Peterson, who heads the ministry, recently went to Russia, Ukraine, Moldavia, and Georgia with Charles Colson's Prison Ministry.

INTERNATIONAL ORTHODOX NEWS can be found in "The Sentinel". The monthly can be ordered for $15 a year from The Sarov Press, PO Box 13, Stratford, CT 06497. For more info, call 203-386-0716.

THE CHURCH TURMOIL IN THE UKRAINE continues. Several groups are vying for preeminence. One of these is The Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the Kievan Patriarchate, headed by former Metropolitan Philaret Denisenko, who recently consecrated a bishop in Stockholm, Sweden.

OVER 6 THOUSAND RUSSIANS live in Cyprus. Over 25 thousand Russians visit the islands as tourists during the summer months. A Russian Orthodox Church is being built in Limassol for their spiritual sustenance. The land was donated by the Orthodox Church of Cyprus to the Russian Orthodox Patriarchate.

HOLY NATIVITY CONVENT IN SAXONBURG, PA (Greek Archdiocese) has St. Elias as its patron saint. At the annual pilgrimage in July, St. Seraphim of Sarov was also honored. A chapel in his honor has been constructed.

THE RESURRECTION OF CHRIST is announced to the city of Pittsburgh, PA each year by Christian leaders of the city. Water is blessed and prayers are offered. Bishop Maximos (Greek Archdiocese) participated "With strict respect to the regulations as outlined in the SCOBA handbook on Ecumenical Guidelines. This year the announcement was made on March 29.

CAMP FOR PEOPLE OF ALL AGES WILL give an opportunity to learn to play the bandura and to sing. Banduras can be borrowed. Bandura Camp c/o Nick Schidowka, 7067 Beattie St., London, ON, N6P 1A2 Canada or call (519) 652-3043 will be held from July 20 to August 2. Another camp is Kobzarska Sich, c/o Anatoli Murha, 15356 Ellen Dr., Livonia, MI 48154 or call (313) 953-0305. This camp will be held in Emlenton, PA, near Pittsburgh.

THE ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN LAITY is sponsoring a project for its 10th anniversary. The project is looking for papers on three topics that are critical to our Church as it approaches the 3rd millennium. Write OCL, 30 North LaSalle St., Suite 4020, Chicago, IL 60602-2507.

ORDER NOW – Packets or individual subscriptions to The Orthodox Herald for your Sunday School or Religious Education classes. Why not sponsor a packet?

PROPERTY RIGHTS OF 24 CHURCH BUILDINGS in the Przemysl, Poland area are in dispute between the Polish Orthodox and Ukrainian Greek Catholic Churches. The churches have been used by both groups over the years, especially since 1940. Unfortunately, the hatred is so bad that the domes and triple-barred crosses are taken down and replaced by steeples and two-barred crosses and then the process is repeated.

WE WERE GIVEN A RARE BOOK. The 197 pages have a complete listing of the surnames (families) and villages in the Lemko-Galicia-part of former Austro-Hungarian lands. You can find the village of your forefathers. Released in 1993, the records were compiled from the metrical books of the churches. This is especially important because many of the inhabitants were resettled several times and many of the villages have been destroyed. Send a self-addressed envelope with stamp.

THE BROTHERS KARAMAZOV by Dostoyevsky was based on Elder Ambrose of the Optina Monastery. Hundreds of people flocked daily to his humble cabin in central Russia for advice and counsel. A book of his life is now available for $18.10 ppd from St. Herman Press, PO Box 70, Platina, CA 96076.

A COMMON DATE FOR PASCHA/EASTER was the reason for a meeting in Aleppo, Syria on March 5-10. John Erickson, Ph.D., a canon law professor at St. Vladimir Seminary who served as a consultant at the conference, said in a telephone interview that "...some dissident groups of Orthodox are already condemning the Aleppo proposals as a 'sell-out' to Catholics and Protestants and a surrender to 'the heresy of ecumenism.' " The common date would mean Easter would be celebrated not only together but on the same Sunday each year.

CONTROVERSY CONTINUES OVER the remains of Russia's last royal family. They remain in a mortuary in Yekaterinburg, the city in the Urals where they were shot by Bolsheviks in 1918.

THE ALL-CHURCH PARISH MINISTRIES CONFERENCE will be held at St. Tikhon's Monastery and Seminary on July 30 to August 2. It will be geared to meet the needs of all those involved in community service, lay ministries, senior life ministry, camping programs and other areas. Call for info. 516-922-0550 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

ST. SERAPHIM BROTHERHOOD, Fr. David Ogan, Lompac, CA 93428, with the blessing of Metropolitan Theodosius, has begun to feed the hungry in Moscow, especially at the Kazansky Train Station, where many of them congregate. It is also concerned about the 100,000 homeless children on the streets of Moscow. The Brotherhood is filling humanitarian need. Every $25 collected in the U.S. pays for food for 200 for one day. Checks should be made out to St. Timothy Orthodox Church. Volunteers are also needed.

•Last Holy Day

and crushed, a blood red oil appears reminiscent of the Beheading of St. John. It is now believed to be a natural mood booster and is the leading treatment for depression in Germany. Physicians write some 3 million prescriptions a year – 25 times the number they write for Prozac. Much study is being done in this country on this herb.

The herb can be found in the Carpathian area. The flowers were infused and used to cure nervousness, as a diuretic and to heal wounds, burns and ulcers.

•Dormition Recalls Devotion

i blahosloven plod creva tvojeho, jako Spasa rodila yesi dysh nashe." "Hail, Mary full of grace, the Lord is with Thee. Blessed art Thou amongst women and blessed is the fruit of Thy womb..."

The services of the Orthodox Church are rich in prayers to the Bohoroditza. She is invoked at ordinations, and in prayers for the dying and the dead and in other services but especially in the Divine Liturgy. The most tender salutations are used for her. Some are: Joy of all afflicted, Consolation of those in exile, Protection against unseen foes. So exalted is the name of Mary that it is never given to a child. Girls may be given the name Mary but it is in honor of a St. Mary like Mary of Caesarea, Magdalene, Egypt, etc.

In days gone by, it was the custom to remember the Mother of God in one's will by bequeathing money or precious jewels to be used in decorating her ikon in a church or shrine. These were usually fastened to a cover (ryza) of precious metal which was put over the ikon, covering everything but her head and hands. Those who could not give gold or jewels arranged for gifts of silk or embroidered linen to drape over the ikon. Plants, flowers and fruits were placed before her ikon.

Yes, the Bohoroditza was much loved by the Orthodox people and many still have a tender place in their hearts for her, like my aunt whose spirit was sustained by her love for the Bohoroditza.

* * * * * *

Jerome the Greek, a monk who lived centuries ago, was asked, "How do you know you were baptized at all? Perhaps your parents were secretly pagans."

"I know it," he replied, "from the results."

WINTER'S GRACE

I have asked myself in my old age (90+), "What does the Church mean for me?" Not in a textbook sense, but in a real and personal sense. What does it really mean for me?

It means a relationship to God. It means myself standing before God, not standing before the Law, not standing before an institution. In everything – in prayer, action, thought, emotion – I relate directly to God.

I am not alone. I am part of a whole. I am one with all Christians, in every time, in every place – from my own family, to my parish, to all the world.

I am I and this is reality. It is my growth, my life, my responsibility. I, as a person, am responsible to God.

Life is a whole-spiritual and physical, soul and body, the physical world and the spiritual life that lives in it and through it.

Old age is difficult. With it comes fear, helplessness, weakness, loneliness. But the true meaning of old age, its greatest task, is to accept it. St. Paul wrote of some unknown, persistent difficulty in his life, "A thorn in the flesh was given me a messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I be exalted above measure. Concerning this thing I pleaded with the Lord three times that it might depart from me. And He said to me, 'My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness'" (2 Cor 12:7-9).

By God's grace, I am striving to accept the thorns of old age in the same way I have tried to live my life – with gratitude, humility, and joy.

Sophie Koulomzin, M.A., Educator

WHERE ARE THEY?

Fifty years ago there were few retirees in our parishes. Most parishioners were working men with a family to support. Still they gave of their time and money to the support of the church. When they became of retirement age and social security came into play, it was indeed fortunate for many parishes, as they spent their hours around the church. Then something happened – retirees found other interests.

The ideal outlet for retirees with the energy and desire to work is in the local parish where as ever – an expanding spectrum of jobs exist. Yet too often, retirees feel uncomfortable with what they see as "forcing" themselves on an unwilling pastor, or church board.

Many retirees today are changing their thinking on retirement. It is no longer a time for doing nothing. Assuming reasonable health, as retirees, they want to continue their productivity at their own pace. It is of benefit to them physically, mentally and spiritually.

Local parishes are the ideal level where their time and talents can be absorbed to their best benefit and that of the church. There is a mother lode of talent among retired men and women. Where are they? Why can't they come to church services on holy days? Why can't they learn to sing the responses? Why can't they read the epistle? Why can't they care for plantings around the church? Why can't they do the little jobs that are often neglected?

A HARD RUN: VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers serve the parish in so many ways: They make perohi, fish fries, work at bazaars, teach religious classes, sing in the choir or chant the services during the week, run off the weekly bulletin, etc. Why do these people work so hard and so long most of the time without any recognition of their services? They get no pay and no praise.

There is an old fable which helps explain the dedication of these vollies. There was a dog that boasted of his ability as a runner. One day, he chased a rabbit but failed to catch it. The other dogs made fun of him.

"Remember," he retorted, "the rabbit was running for his life, and I was running for the fun of it."

Success depends on motive. If you are in the race merely for the fun of it or for money, you will not put the same energy into your running as you will if your work is for a deeper and more serious reason.

* * * * * *

A TRUE FRIEND

Oh the comfort, the inexpressible comfort of feeling safe with a person, having neither to weigh thoughts nor measure words but pour them all right out just as they are, chaff and grain together, knowing that a faithful hand will take and sift them, keep what is worth keeping, and then with the breath of kindness blow the rest away.

* * * * * *

Some books are for information; some for our inspiration; the Bible is for our transformation.



WEEKLY MEDITATIONS

August 3 - 7th Sunday after Pentecost - Romans 15:1-7; Matt 9:27-35. We fall down before You, O Good and all-powerful God, and we place our hope in Your loving-kindness. As You healed the blind men who came trusting in Your compassion, cure us of spiritual blindness with the touch of Your life-giving Hand. Also, as You made the dumb man speak, open our lips that we may praise and glorify You with words of thanksgiving. Help us to see Your divine image in the least of our brothers and sisters. Comfort them and us with Your healing presence, and keep us all under the wings of Your protection. May we be witnesses to the wonderful things that God can perform for those who love Him. O God, our Refuge and Shelter, save Your people who are praying to You in faith, and have mercy on us.

August 10 - 8th Sunday after Pentecost - 1 Cor 1:10-18; Matt 14:14-22. O Lord Jesus, Son of God Most High, have compassion on Your servants who gather together in Your Holy Temple to sing praises to Your holy Name and to offer You our sacrifice of praise. As You fed the hungry multitude with the two fish and five loaves, visit us from on high, O Lord and fill us with Your every grace and blessing. Let not one of us be disappointed or empty in spirit today. Transform our lives completely in accordance with Your Holy will. Teach us to rely on You at all times. Show forth Your invisible Hand and satisfy our inner longing to be with You forever in Your Kingdom. We beseech You, O most-merciful Lord, look down from heaven upon all Your people, and have mercy on us.

August 17 - 9th Sunday after Pentecost - 1 Cor 3:9-17; Matt 14:22-34. Merciful Lord Jesus Christ our God, we humbly fall down before Your infinite majesty and ask You to stay with us as we sail on the sea of life. Calm the waves of all that seek to destroy our souls. As You firmly grasped the hand of Peter to reassure him of Your faithfulness and love, lift us up during the turbulent times of our lives. Strengthen our faith in You. Increase our hope in Your mercy. Never leave us, O Divine Master, but look upon Your servants with kindness, and have mercy on us.

August 24 - 10th Sunday after Pentecost - 1 Cor 4:9-16; Matt 17:14-23. O Lord Jesus, Son of God and Son of man, look with Your merciful eyes upon the petitions of those who gather together in the temple of Your glory. Grant to Your servants, the faith to accomplish Your will on earth. Show them that nothing is impossible to those who believe in You with their whole heart. As You cured the possessed child, show us Your saving power and love. May we come closer to You everyday of our lives, and live forever with You in the never-ending day of Your kingdom. O Physician of our souls and bodies, have pity on Your children praying to You, and have mercy on us.

August 31 - 11th Sunday after Pentecost - 1 Cor 9:2-12; Matt 18:23-35. O Lord Jesus, our Strength and Praise, with humility we fall down before Your loving-kindness and ask You to forgive all our sins, whether we have committed them in a voluntary or involuntary way. Though we have squandered the riches You have given us and wasted our time and talents on things of this passing world, call us back to the practice of Your commandments. We offer ourselves completely to Your holy will, O most-merciful and patient One. Let us be partakers of eternal life in the age to come. O great Compassionate Lord, listen to the fervent plea of Your servants, and have mercy on us.

Raymond Mastroberte
Cantor

THE BABAS TAUGHT ME

That the church is not a hall or a theater. When we come into the church, we should purchase a candle, then venerate the ikon. We should go to our place and pray or meditate. We may nod to acknowledge someone but we should not talk to them. As we are waiting for the service to begin, we should converse only with God and the saints in prayer or meditation. We should also pay attention to the reader who does the Hours.

Save talking to your friends until after the service is over and you leave the church. In some churches conversation starts immediately as people go to get their prosphora or to "kiss the cross." The Babas may shush the children but they find it awkward to do the same to the adults as "they should know better" but they are disturbed that the church is being so disrespected.

ALASKA FUND

Helping to send copies of The Orthodox Herald to Alaska this month are: Paul Stuchlak, George Chobany, Helen Korba, Anna and Stanley Kapuska, Ethel Watlock.

Dabs of Thoughts

The "founders of this Holy Temple" is part of a litany which is said at most services held in the Church. In Novo-davidkovo, now in the Ukraine, the names of the founders are printed on the back of the ikonostas to be remembered as long as the church stands.

St. Matthias was chosen to replace Judas. In the Book of Acts 1:15-16, 21-26 it tells us that two men were selected as possible replacements: Joseph (called Barsabbas) and Matthias. Those assembled about 120 people prayed and then drew lots to decide the winner. Matthias was added to the 11 Apostles. We honor him on August 9/22.

Bulletins are no longer needed in most parishes. They were instituted when there were almost daily services and when donations were read following the Divine Liturgy. Now with few services and acknowledgements of only large donations, there is no longer a need to waste paper and time putting out a weekly bulletin.

Until the 12th century both the Eastern and the Western Church combined baptism and chrismation. The newly-baptized was then given Holy Communion. This practice slowly decreased in the West until it was almost gone by the 17th century. The Orthodox Church has maintained the practice.

How proud we were as children to carry a beautiful bouquet of flowers and herbs to the church for the Dormition on August 15/28 and a bowl of fruit for blessing on the Transfiguration August 6/19.

All ikons have inscriptions on them identifying them. They are not finished when these are lacking. Now we find ikons that use English in the inscription.

The Purple Heart Decoration will be 215 years old on August 7. It is the oldest military decoration in America. Before 1772 only officers received awards; the Purple Heart is only given to enlisted personnel. It remains an army decoration.

Since it is of Thy mercy, O gracious Father, that another day is added to my life, I here dedicate both my soul and my body to Thee and Thy service, in a sober, righteous, and godly life; in this resolution, do Thou, O merciful God, confirm and strengthen me; that as I grow in age, I may grow in grace.



EDITORS' NOTES

It was good to see so many of you at the various picnics and bazaars in the area. It seems that this is about the only time we sit at leisure and bring each other up on the news of the past year. Unfortunately, most of the news is about bad health and deaths, but we also find things to laugh about. This month there will be the big celebration of St. Innocent at St. Tikhon's Monastery. Call for more information.

I note a tinge of yellow in the leaves and ground growth. The goldenrod greet me wherever I look. It was with surprise that I found that there are many forms of goldenrod. Not until I started to paint them did I discover this. Slow learner or poor observer?

We sent 20 boxes of sewing, knitting and embroidery materials to the monastery in the Ukraine. Many inquiries have been received the past month. If you have a contribution to make, put it in a corner until you read in The Orthodox Herald about future shipments. When we make our trip this September, we are going to confer with the Igumena about the contents of the boxes.

We were pleased to receive so much mail concerning Babas. Many of your observations will be included in articles yet unwritten. What did the Babas teach you?

The ordination of priests who have just accepted Orthodoxy troubles many of you. It seems that the New Age movement adherents are working their various paths through Hinduism, agnostism, various charismatic groups and now they have found Orthodoxy. We pray that this is not one stop along their way.

Last month the Bible Study was written by Fr. Ihor Kutash from Canada. He will be furnishing us with these studies in the future. This month's thoughts were especially provoking.

God Be With You,

The Strogens

ETHNIC CHUCKLE

Dorohaya Tyotya Mareea,

Yak tam kole vas? Toot shutko OK. Me feeluyehm dobree. Neh dostalee flu. Noh yah mam povestee vam za veset nashee cousenee making to us.

Ve znayete totee cousenee. Yeh nanko preshlo ot nasheho sella. Yah neh znam zhe ohne nashee couseenee noh moya mama told us to call them that. This is pershe time zhe yah vedyela them. Ohne live a distance away ee mama yem peesala. Anyhow ohne stopovalee to celebrate a "significant date." Boh znah shto toh "significant date." Yah asked noh ohnee me neh hotcheelee povestee. Ohne stopped for a few minutes. Eeh perebachteh yah znam why mama was glad they lived far away.

Anyhow ohnee balakalee ee balakalee yak dobree they live, how much money djiti making, eh tak. Me staree eh yah just listening, couldn't get a word in. Anyhow yah offered them coffee che shoska druhee, noh ohne saying zhe ohne staying only a minute and anyhow they are driving. Noh minute peeshlo nah another ee uzhyeh chas yeastee. Yal mala supper noh yah neh mohla datee successful cousins halushke z kapustoy. So yah dumam better go doh restaurantuy.

Preshlo time orderavatee. Cousinaa dala order for sebey ee husband boh "you know dear, we decided to follow the rules, and I know them better." Ohna saying this so sweet yah zhe yah budu sick. Ohna ordered broiled fish, broccoli, morku, no dessert, only water to drink. Eeh told waiter to tell cook to use no butter, no dairy products, no sauces.

Yah dumam. My goodness ohne orderyat postnee meal. Yah bulla impressed yak strict onee keeping lent. Yah make remark: "I see you are fasting according to the Church law. It's good to see that some keep it. "Yah bulla surprised yakee look ohne dalee me. Yak husband looked down nos nah menhe and said: "Oh, my honey and I aren't following any fasting rules. We're very concerned about our cholesterol."

Yah mala enough of me successful cousenee and couldn't hold back eeh yah said: "Kolee bullc church rules ton bulla too hard and how could person be expected to keep them, noh yak nashlee cholesterol toh shutkee following totee same rules ee not complaining at all."

Following Church rules and find that good nah both kinds of health

Budte Zdrove, Hanya

PRESS FUND

A big Thank You (Spasebo) to all of you who help us to keep publishing. Mary Ann Carmack, Mary Ellen Kandratino, Lori Ortega, Anna Bennett, Irene Allen, Mary Lorko, Helen Dopsovic, Janet Jupin, Mary Kochmaruk, Anna and Stanley Kapuska, Mary Pavlicek, Ethel Watlock, Melanie Jula Sakoda, Eva Souchick, Michael Uhrin, Dr. Dimitrios Pappas, Allen Lucas, George Chobany, Paul Stuchlak in memory of parents Peter and Anastasia, brother Alex, nephew David and sister-in-law Suzanne Stuchlak. Helen Ostrosky in memory of her cousin Dr. Metro "Duke" Yurchak who died on May 23. Anonymous for prayers in memory of Dad "Sal." Stella Sahonchik in memory of John "Saxy" and Helen Sahonchik.

Other

George Chobany for Russian Gift of Life.

St. Nicholas Church in Whitestone, NY for Carpatho-Rus relief.

Steffie Pavlik, a yearly packet plan to her parish in Manville, NJ, in memory of her husband, Anthony.

ORTHODOX CASSETTE PROJECT

For $130 you can get 27 radio program tapes which are keyed to the Gospel readings for each Sunday. On these tapes you will find, besides the gospel reading, a short sermon, meditation and a bit of information either on the composers, etc. This portion is in English. The main part of the tape features Choir music in Slavonic by the best choirs in the world. If you prefer ordering by the month – it is $5 per tape. August tapes feature the following.

No. 14: Matt 9: 27-35; Matt 14-:14-22, Compositions of Bortniansky. Russian Chorale of Moscow.

No. 15: Matt 14:22-34; Matt 17:14-23. Compositions of Tschaikovsky sung by the Tschaikovsky Ensemble. Also compositions of Rachmanikoff sung by Svesnikov and Fekula Choirs.

From a letter this month: "We play the cassettes at our Coffee Hour. We find that many more people are attending. The music and messages give a common ground for conversation. I'm surprised how many young people are interested!"

A complete set 22 Balalaika music on 90-minute tapes are available for $150 (33 hours - 1980 minutes). The source is 51 long playing records from the finest recordings in the world collected privately over 40 years. Individual recording $8.00. No other charges.

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When others come to you for counseling, they do not necessarily expect you to solve their problems, but to listen to them.



Are you looking for someone different to serve at your picnic or backyard cookout? Try fixing these Pickled Eggs. The recipe is taken from the cookbook "From Our Kitchen With Love", which can be ordered from St. Mark Orthodox Church, 400 W. Hamlin, Rochester Hills, MI 48307. Send a check for $12. This includes postage and handling. For those that are looking for new recipes for chicken or for meatless dishes for their vegetarian family members or friends, this book will help you. There is a good recipe for Noodle-Cabbage Crisp which gives a new taste to Cabbage and Halushki.

PICKLED HARD COOKED EGGS

12 hard cooked eggs
1 cup juice from can of pickled beets
1 cup vinegar
4 cups water
1 clove garlic
1 bay leaf
2 tsp. mixed pickling spices
1/2 tsp. salt

Combine all ingredients, except eggs, and mix well. Add shelled eggs an 1 small onion (sliced into rings). Cover and refrigerate for several days. Serves 12.

(Sophia Dureiko)

I found that if I put the peeled eggs into a jar first and poured the pickling over, it was easier to handle. Most jars have lids.

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Though no one can go back and make a brand new start, anyone can start from now and make a brand new end.



AUGUST 1997

1. 1 Cor 7:35-8:7	18 1 Cor 15:12-19
2 James 5:10-20	19 2 Peter 1:10-19
3 **Romans 15:1-7**	20 1 Cor 16:4-12
4 1 Cor 9:13-18	21 2 Cor 1:1-7
5 1 Cor 10:5-12	22 Rom 15:30-33
6 1 Cor 10:12-22	23 2 Cor 1:12-20
7 1 Cor 10:28-11:7	24 **1 Cor 4:9-16**
8 1 Cor 11:8-22	25 2 Cor
9 Romans 13:1-10	26 2 Cor
10 **1 Cor 1:10-18**	27 2 Cor
11 1 Cor 11:31-12:6	28 Phil 2:5-11
12 1 Cor 12:12-26	29 2 Cor 4:13-18
13 1 Cor 13:4-14:5	30 1 Cor 1:3-9
14 1 Cor 14:6-19	31 1 Cor 9:2-12
15 1 Cor 14:26-40	Transfiguration: 6/19
16 Romans 14:6-9	Dormition: 15/28
17 **1 Cor 3:9-17**	

BIBLE STUDY

In (1 Corinthians 1:10-18) the Apostle Paul makes an exhortation to do something which appears to be virtually impossible. He says: "I appeal to you, brethren, by the name of Our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree and that there be no dissensions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and same judgment."

Anyone who works in an organization or is active in a Church or who tries to build up good relations among all the members of his or her own family knows how very difficult – how nearly unthinkable this is. Every one has things that he or she likes and they are sometimes quite different from the things that others like. It is the same in every area of human activity.

And then we can add other things as well. There are different traits of character and some of them rub other people the wrong way. People try to be tolerant but it is not easy and we do not always have the patience or the determination to pursue the road of tolerance and acceptance of differences.

Nonetheless the ideal to which Saint Paul calls people is truly in accord with the Message of Our Lord Jesus Christ, who prayed for the union of all (see John chapter 17). We, His Church, pray for the same thing in each Divine Liturgy. Listen for it.

To hear some Christian speakers it seems that Jesus came to separate people into good and bad – and the good ones are the ones that are in our group, they seem to say. It is true that there are differences that come about even (some might say especially) among the followers of Jesus. But Jesus did not come into the world to give us another means of separating ourselves from other people, so that we could feel superior to others and judge and condemn them. He came to unite all the world around the Truth – and He Himself is the personification of Truth.

If we can orient our lives around His words and His example, this will prepare the way for a unity deeper and wider than anything the world has ever known. The Truth, you see, is not a set of propositions: it is THE PERSON OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST.

Let us decide – or let us renew the decision – to work hard and continuously primarily within our own hearts and minds to make this unity possible among the members of our family, our Church, our community and all the inhabitants of planet Earth.

God will help us by His Holy Spirit, Who leads us to wakefulness and repentance, so that He might work THROUGH US, with all our gifts, with all of our experiences, with all that we are and ARE BECOMING to accomplish His wonderful plan for the transformation of the whole universe.

And so what Paul asks us to do is NOT unthinkable or impossible. It is difficult and it may not be what we WANT to do. But it is not important to WANT to do what is right: we must DO what is right whether we WANT TO OR NOT. In fact the more difficult a matter is, the more reluctant we are to do it, the greater the benefit to the world and to ourselves – and the greater the joy of the Lord who thus sees in action the love we must have for Him and His creation. Let us DO it. As of today let us start preparing in ourselves the way for the perfect unity of the children of God.

Archpriest Ihor Kutash, Ph.D.

MISSION FUND

There are many places that copies go to inform about the Orthodox faith. Helping are: Ann Lykens in memory of her parents and family members, Paul Stuchlak, SDcn Paul and Joan Maty, Anna and Stanley Kapuska, Michael Uhrin, Ethel Watlock.

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We've seen countless human "angels" in Christmas pageants and heard the compliment "You're an angel," but what do you really know about the Orthodox teachings concerning these creatures of light?